**National Mathematics Summer School January 2020**

January saw the closure of the ANU campus due to high temperatures, smoke and poor air quality and fire risks. The Summer School was relocated to Melbourne University with a shortened program.

The Tasmanian participants were:

Georgia Cleaver from Don College

Toby Leeming from Rose Bay High

Lachlan Marshall from Don College

In addition, Sudhaunshu Hardikar, who completed Year 12 at Hutchins School in 2019, was invited to return to NMSS as a member of the Experienced Group (EG). This is quite an honour for Sudhaunshu and we are very proud of him. He said that NMSS was even better second time around. Sudhaunshu is now studying Mathematics at ANU.

Below are some excerpts from the reports submitted to MAT by the returning NMSS 2020 participants.

Toby

*Now that I am back in a regular school environment, I find myself wanting to get stuck into the first problem of the lesson and explore everything about it. I’ve learned that solving a problem is only half of it, the other half is understanding, exploring and questioning the problem.*

Lachlan

*At first I felt a bit lost because I had more questions than answers and spent a lot of my time stuck or not knowing what to do. However, I soon realised that that was the point and if I were to pursue a career involving mathematics, a lot of the time I would be working on questions to which no-one has the answer. As soon as I accepted the fact that it’s okay to spend time just thinking about a question and exploring what perked my interest, I was able to take a lot away from utilising what I had learnt in the lectures as tools for embracing a creative and imaginative side of mathematics I had not been exposed to before. It also made coming to any conclusions extremely rewarding.*

Georgia

*I’ve always felt like I didn’t fit in with a lot of people in my community, so becoming friends with people who understand me from all over Australia has been really rewarding. NMSS really put things into perspective for me, making me more excited for university and the future. I can’t thank the Mathematical Association of Tasmania enough for helping me experience this amazing opportunity. I am so grateful that I got to have this experience!*